HAMATEUR

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol.12 No. 04 - April, 2004

Vice-President's letter

Last year Patrick, W9UQ wrote an article for the Chatter. Many of his points are as valid today as they were last year. I have updated some points and kept others with all due credit to Patrick, W9UQ.

It comes down to personal respon-Where have we heard this before? Two years ago John Kraak, KF9XL, the Nominating Committee Chairman pleaded and begged to generate a sense of responsibility that caused Mark - AB9CD and Patrick - W9UO to volunteer to take on "roles" as officers of this club. It is that time of the year again and it is time for you (dear reader) to consider what you can do to help our club. Dave, WB9BWP, the Nominating Committee Chairman has pleaded for members to step forward and a couple of members have done so. The board is truly grateful for those members for doing so.

It may be that you are not ready to take on a board position, but how about considering helping one of the board members with his/her pet project? And who says: "...you are not ready to take on a board position?"

Have you tried one lately? This board is dynamic, has fun, is nonpolitical (it's easy – if anyone gets that way the rest of the board members shoot them...) and we actually have such a good club that our only worries are:

- 1. Where to meet next.
- 2. Articles for the Chatter.
- 3. What is the program for the membership meeting?
- 4. Are enough people coming to Field Day?
- 5. What is the movie for Field Day Saturday night?

Not all necessarily in that order. We do keep a perspective that all of us are volunteers of sorts and that we all have primary responsibilities outside of this organization. So – please consider

running for one of the open "board slots" and exploring a new way to have fun with friends!

We do have responsibilities as board members - we are a Corporation in the State of Wisconsin and as such, we have specific expectations that we must fulfill formally. President, Secretary and Treasurer's job are defined for us by the incorporation statutes, as well as the various reports, forms, and procedures we must follow. The Vice president's job is not as clear and leaves a lot open to the individual's imagination once the "assume the duties of the president in his absence" part is taken care of. The rest of the board members provide supporting roles to the various needs of the club - publication of the Chatter is one that comes to mind, Field Day organization is another. We consider ourselves an "educational" club - we strive to hold classes and bring new Hams into the fold as well as provide the opportunity for those who want to upgrade. We run a repeater, but I wager that most of our members spend more time on HF in various modes than on two meter FM... Still we have a responsibility to maintain the good operation of our repeater. We actually have quite an active club! Or I should say a club with a lot of activities. While I see a lot of you at our monthly membership meetings, there are many of you who do not participate in the other activities - my thought is that maybe we have picked the wrong activity for you... if there is something you would like the club to try - let one of the board members know! Please!

Who of you knows someone in the media? We need to establish as many Media contacts as possible – the ARRL provided an article titled "Its Not Just for Field Day" that reminded me that I have another job/responsibility in Amateur Radio – I am the ARRL Public Information Coor-

continued on Pg 2

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1

AILWAUKEE AREA

			Tue.	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. (CW)
DAY	TIME MHz	ACTIVITY	Tue.	8:30 PM	223.500	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Daily5:	00 - 7:15 AM 3.985	Badger Weather Net	Tue.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 m. SSB Net.
Daily	6:00 PM 1.895	MidEast 160 m. Net	Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Internat. (Milw. Ch.) (SSB)
Daily	6-8:00 AM 14.290	Wisconsin/Florida (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130	ARRL voice news
Daily	7:30 AM 144.155	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+	Weather & Swap net.
Daily	6:30 PM 3.645	WI Slow Speed CW Traffic	hu.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 mtr. SSB Net.
Daily	9:30 PM 3.9725	Country Cousins Net	Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Computer Net
MonS	at.12:00 PM 28.380	10/10 International Net	Fri	8:30 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)
Mon.	8:00 PM 3.994	Tech Net	Fri.	9:00 PM	145.390-	W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10mtr.
Mon.	8:00 PM 146.865-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)	Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Mon.	8:00 PM 146.445	Emergency Net	Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Mon.	8:45 PM 146.670-	ARRL voice news (ARES)	Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Mon.	9:00 PM 50.160	6 m.SSB NET	Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800+	FM-38 link to 146.88 Bar. SWAP Net
Mon.	9:00 PM 146.670-	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)	Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Int. (MKE Ch.) (SSB)
Tue.	9:00 AM 50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net	Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910-	Information Net
Tue.	8:00 PM 144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)	Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Swap Net
						•

TIME

MHz

ACTIVITY

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600KHz -- 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 PM. the last Thursday of the month except for December and are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall 4057 N. Mayfair Rd. Milwaukee, WI

VP letter cont.

dinator for Wisconsin (PIC for short) • and that means that I should be striving to get local media to recognize us • and to laud our accomplishments to • ARRL Section manager), will pres- • up to bat to be an officer or board the public at large! This means that I • need help from you! So - Who knows • someone in the media? It would benefit the club and Amateur Radio • season. as a whole if more accomplishment. related articles made it into the local papers and radio/TV media. Besides Field Day that is... Let me know if . Election of Officers and our Anand how you can help.

Best regards,

Brian K9LCO

April

Don Michalski, W9IXG (our local • ent a program on Wire Antennas • member. Volunteers are not comto head us into the antenna building ing forward to be nominated for the

May

The May program will be the nual Auction.

If you have suggestions of programs for our meetings, please talk to one or more of our officers and/or • our board members.

Nominations/

We (our club) need people to step positions which are opening up this spring in the club.

We need a President, Vice-president, and treasurer and in order to • have a real election, it would be great to have more than one person per open slot.

The jobs of the officers and board members are not hard. We have a good group of people and it's a cooperative effort.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING MAR. 25, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Brian - K9LCQ the club's vice president. Brian explained that Kevin - KC9BZU, the club's president was still unavailable to run the meeting. The microphone was passed for introductions.

Tom - AB9EK read the minutes from the February meeting. A motion was made by Howard - AB9FH and seconded by Les - AB9EY to accept the minutes as read. Motion passed.

Joe - N9UX gave the treasurer's report for March. A motion was made by Pancho - KA9OFA and seconded by Mark - AB9CD. Motion passed. If you haven't paid your dues for 2004, do so now in order to continue to receive the Chatter.

Sherm - KB9Q gave a report on the FM simplex contest. In club competition, 1st place went to the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, 2nd place - Badger Contesters, 3rd place - the Milwaukee Repeater Club - 4th place - West Allis Amateur Club and 5th place went to to Door County Radio Club. Overall went to Gary - N9UUR for 1st place, and 2nd place went to Jack - N9XRO. First place in the HT 2 meter category went to Gary - N9MGJ. In the 2 meter high power category there was a tie between Gary - N9UUR and Jeff - K9VS. In high power 70cm and 6 meters went to Joe - N9UX. In 1.25 meters there was a tie for 1stplace between Gary - N9UUR, Jack -N9XRO and Mar - AB9CD. The club plaque has been engraved with this year's winning club (MRAC) and is on display at AES.

Jerry - WA9CGE, this year's Field Day chairman, invited everyone out for this year's event. The club picnic will be on Saturday June 26th at the Field Day site. Information on getting to Pioneer Village will be made available.

Rick - WA9GYT stated that the amateur radio project at Boys Tech has a new contact person, but there have been no communications between this new contact person and himself.

Mark - AB9CD stated that there have been no changes to the club's repeater. Everything is working fine. At times, the repeater is experiencing some static interference, but he's not sure where it's coming from.

Over the last two months, the Board has been going over the club by-laws. The Board has made some language and grammar changes to clean up the wording. You can find the by-laws on the club's web page. The membership will vote on the changed by-laws at the April meeting.

Dave - WB9BWP, is the chairman of the nominating committee and gave a pitch to the membership asking for possible candidates for club officers. We need at least two Board members and possibly all four club officers. Dave would like to see at least two possible candidates for each office so that we can have a run off election. Nominations will be taken in April and the election in May.

Dave auctioned off some books that were provided by Del. The club's annual auction will be at the May meeting.

Brian stated that there are four proposals on the ARRL web site on licensing restructuring. The FCC is taking comments on these proposals

at this time.

A question was asked on how DX on the bands have been, who's on and what bands. A discussion occurred and there has been some DX but not all that great.

The program for April will be on wire antennas by Don Michalski - W9IXG. We need programs/ideas. If you have a program you would like to do, let a Board member know so we can set up a time for you. If you can't do a program but have an idea, also let us know. Without ideas, there won't be any programs.

Superfest is on April 2 & 3 at AES. The club will have a table and everyone is invited to man it.

A motion was made by Tom
- WI9TOM and seconded by John
- WB9PSE to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm. Meeting adjourned.

The program was provided by Mark - AB9CD, on op amps.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Schulte

Tom Schulte - AB9EK Club Secretary



SURPRISE

The May meeting features the Annual Auction (a small plug for that) and of course Elections.

At this month's meeting (April) we will have nominations for the positions up for election. The nominating committee will present a list of people and nominations from the floor will be welcomed (please, no nominations for anyone not in attendance (or giving their written permission - if that was all we had to do, there would be no problem).

Remember last month when I tried to make you feel guilty enough to offer to run for club office? Well here is another shot.

Some developments since last month's Chatter and the last meeting. Howard Parks - AB9FH (the club web guy) and Hal Newton - KB9OZN have offered to run for Director. I want to personally and as part of the nominating committee thank them both very much for stepping up to help lead and ensure continuation of the club.

Now before you think we're home free, also new is Brian White - K9LCQ. He does not wish to run for re-election as Vice-President. Brian has served as director, VP. and as our last 2nd VP for a number of continuous years and needs time for some other pursuits. Besides, officers are not lifetime positions, even though some members may think that way (thinking why run, just let the people already there do the job).

Anyway, anyone interested in running for Vice President?

There is someone who may run,

but they might have conflicts on meeting and board meeting nights • come fall so they are a bit reluctant • to just say yes right now. Our President has not yet returned from his business world travels so I am not arz.com website, there are over sure if we have anyone running for 10,000 Hams in our state (WI). Of President yet.

is always nice. The club is much more than some cheap doughnuts waukee, Waukesha, and Ozaukee one night a month. There is Field • counties. Day, VEC, license classes, repeater, • It seems to me that we **should** FM contest, this newsletter, just to have more HAMs participating in name some of the activities we are clubs, club activities, etc. involved in.

guide it to continue as one of the might be that they need to be invited oldest continuously active amateur to a meeting or two. A lot of times radio clubs in the world. We have • all it takes is a little talking up of just turned 87. The next batch of • our club and to tell them about some officers will begin planning for the • of the great things we are into. A 90th anniversary. Let's hope there is * personal invitation to a club meetreason to celebrate.

Contact: me. Sherm Swanson -KB9Q, or Jack Hughes - W9ULA if you want to run (or even if you • to the officers and board to talk to know someone who you think people. should run).

Don't make me come there and really twist your arms.

New 18 DEBUT WEBUP



DEAS TO GET More HAMs to

According to a census at the • those, I'd venture to say more than Besides, having a real election one third (1/3) are in the southeastern portion and over 2,000 in Mil-

• I wonder if most of them don't The club needs people to help * know our club exists. If they do, it ing or one of our other events. How about and invitation to Field Day in • June? It shouldn't be left strictly up

> It would be great if we had a P.R. • person to let the media know that • we (our club) exists and that we do some pretty neat things.

> We could also use some people to • volunteer to be a part of the group • and to help some of the few people • who seem to be doing 99% of the jobs that need to be done or to even do some of the things that are not getting done at present.

73,

Pancho - KA9OFA

Please volunteer!

RESULTS OF THE FM SIMPLEX CONTEST

THE MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB'S FM SIMPLEX CONTEST generated the following statistics and comments. As chairman of the contest committee I would like to thank all the stations that participated.

- 1. Thirty-three call signs showed up on the submitted entries.
- 2. There were nineteen entries and check logs submitted.
- 3. All logs showed two meter, and fifteen logs had 70-centimeter activity. Thirteen had 6-meter entries and seven included 1.25-meter contacts.
- 4. Overall Winner was N9UUR, Gary with N9XRO, Jack taking second place.
- 5. High score for the 2-meter band was a tie between K9VS, Jeff and N9UUR.
- 6. N9UX, Joe was high in the 70 centimeter and 6 meter bands.
- 7. AB9CD, Mark, N9UUR and N9XRO tied for First place in 1.25 meters.
- 8. The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club again won First place in the club competition but one entry that was not sent in on time, would have won first place and immortality on the perpetual plaque for the Badger Contesters who earned the Second place certificate.
- None of the entries that worked all four bands had the sixteen possible
 multipliers from the Milwaukee Metro area. Also, in spite of the pre-contest
 publicity, there were no contacts with stations in grids other than the "sweet
 sixteen" noted.

If you are listed as a winner above and did not pick up your certificate at Superfest, they will be available from the Secretary at MRAC meetings.

73, KB9Q, Sherm

INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATE WINNERS

FIRST PLACE	N9UUR
SECOND PLACE	N9XRO
FIRST PLACE	
(HT, NON-AMPLIFIED)	N9MGJ
HIGH SCORE	
2MTRs (TIE)	K9VS
	N9UUR
0.7 MTRs	N9UX
6 MTRs	N9UX
1.25 MTRs (TIE)	AB9CD
	N9UUR

N9XRO

Communiqué re: Contest Results

From: JackN9XRO@aol.com
To: swanson@ticon.net

Sent: April 15, 2004 4:33 PM

Subject: RE: Contest

Sherm: I was surprised to learn of my standings in the FM contest sponsored by the MRAC. The time spent was worth the effort! Thanks for being the director of the contest, and thanks to the club for the great certificates!

Jack H. N9XRO



THE MRAC 2004 FM SIMPLEX CONTEST CLUB COMPETITION

The Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club	3500
(FIRST PLACE ENGRAVED ON PERPETUAL PLAQUE)
Badger Contesters	2468
(Second Place Certificate)	
Milwaukee Repeater Club	1467
West Allis Radio Club	540
Door County Amateur Radio Club	. 196

ARRL LICENSING RESTRUCTURING PROPOSAL

(AS CONDENSED FROM THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION MRAC PROGRAM OF FEB., 2004)

The ARRL proposes to have only three licenses: a new entry level (called Novice), General and amateur Extra. The "new" Novice class would have HF phone privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. Reason given would be to give the new ham phone experience other than on just 10 meters. Ten meters seems to be dead much of the time. This will give them much more experience and wider range of ham activities. Technicians now have the problem with lack of different activities other than repeaters. Some areas don't have repeaters and very little activity on 2 meters. Novices would have CW and data experience on these bands as well as UHF and VHF privileges. There would be no code test and all present novices would join this group. They would be limited to 100 watts and hopefully would be motivated to upgrade for more bands and privileges.

Technicians would become General class. There would be no code test

for this move. Reasoning was lack of experience other than UHF and VHF. Since the written test was similar to the General test, the ARRL feels there would be no dumbing down of the requirements. **Generals** would **gain 50 KHz on 80 and 40** and **gain 25 KHz on 15**. They and the Extras would not lose any of the present bands and actually would gain more than they have now.

Advanced class would become Extras and new hams would have to pass 5 words per minute code test unless they are Tech plus. Extras would gain 25 KHz on 80 and 40. ARRL understands the emotional attachment to CW. More and more countries are giving HF bands without a code test. This happened to one of our members coming from Germany. ARRL feels that code should be included in the list of operating skills of the most accomplished amateurs. These changes would conform to the current Universal Licensing System.

The League feels that all modes

are equally important. Research indicates that phone operators far out number CW operators. There would still be a place for CW with QRP and contests.

Some hams I have talked to believe the only reason for the ARRL proposal is to get more members. The League says that a larger and stronger organization would be beneficial for all of us. How about lining the pockets of makers of HF equipment? This would provide companies an incentive to do even more for us.

We had a good discussion about the pros and cons of the proposal. The cons were a little more vocal, so I thought that a vote would go against the proposal. I told them they could not change any part of it. They had to be completely for or against it. The vote was surprising to many of us. There were: 18 for and 12 against the proposal.

73, Dick - W9JBE

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

WB9BWP K9LCQ KB9Q W9JBE KF9XL

Thanks also to Rita Doneis and Tom Fuszard for help in the proofreading dept. Our thanks goes to Dick Wood for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped and mailed and to Mark Tellier who Emails it.

Thanks also goes to Howard Parks who administers our website.

Thanks also to Ted Stiller for obtaining and serving refreshments at our meetings.

Thanks also goes to Tom Sherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Thanks Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, John Kraak and Tom Fuszard who are our VEC's

Special thanks to Matt Karshna for help with resolving several challenges dealing with the production of the 'Chatter.

> Thank YOU!

REMINDER

Check in to our nets on Friday evenings.

The Ten Meter SSB net is at 8:30 PM on 28.490 Mhz. SSB

Our Two Meter FM net follows at 9:00 PM on our repeater @ 145.390 MHz with a – offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz

Join us for Saturday morning breakfast at Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr. We usually meet at 8:00 AM, and order around 8:15 AM. Good food and Fellowship are a given.

EVENTS

* = VE Testing

April MRAC General Meeting Thu. - Apr. 29, 2004

Redemption Lutheran Church Milwaukee, WI

Cedarburg Swapfest *
Sat. - May 1, 2004
Circl "B" Recreation Center
Cedarburg, WI

Dayton Hamvention FRL-SUN. - MAY 14-16, 2004 Hara Arena Trotwood, OH

http://www.hamvention.org

May MRAC General Meeting Thu. - May 27, 2004 Redemption Lutheran Church

Milwaukee, WI

Princeton HamFest & Computer Show JUNE 6, 2004 Bureau co. Fairgrounds Princeton, IL T/I on 146.955-103.5 PL

> MRAC Field Day SAT & SUN - JUNE 26 & 27

> > Pioneer Village Cedarburg, WI

SMARC Swap[fest SAT. - JULY 10, 2004 American Legion Post 434 Oak Creek, WI T/I on 146.52 simp.

Radio Expo 2004
SAT. & SUN - SEP. 18 & 19, 2004
Lake Co Fairgrounds
Grayslake, IL
T/I on 146.16/76 MHz (107.2 Hz PL)



Peoria SuperFest
FRI. - SUN. - SEP. 17 - 19, 2004
Exposition Gardens Fairgrounds
Peoria, IL
T/I on 147.075(-.

WARAC Midwinter SwapFest *
SAT. - JAN. 8,2005
Waukesha Co Expo Center Forum
Waukesha, WI.

Fox Cities SwapFest *
.Sun. - Nov. 7, 2004
Waverly Beach
Menasha, WI



The deadline for items to be published in **HamateurChatter** is 7th day of each month. If you have anything for the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then.

Contact me by email at:

pancho@thepark.net

or by snailmail at:

Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA 1958 N. 38th St. Milwaukee, WI 53208

or by phone at:

(414) 344-4694

VEC News

MRAC VEC held VE testing on Saturday, April 3, 2004 at AES in conjunction with Superfest. There were 20 candidates, and 13 were successful in either qualifying for their initial license or in upgrading. In fact, 11 of the 13 are new hams. Thirty-two elements were given, and 19 were passed. A big thank you is extended to the following VEs:

Mark ByeKB9LDX
Tom Czaja.........KG9EE
Pancho DoneisKA9OFA
Ken EggertW9MOT
Kate KedneyKA9MWT
John KraakKF9XL
Norm McNewKB9QL
Patrick MorettiW9UQ
Hal NewtonKB9OZN
Tom SchulteAB9EK
Sherm Swanson ..KB9Q
Mark TellierAB9CD

Our next exam session will be Saturday, April 24, 2004 at 9:30AM at AES.

Please remember that those individuals who have been studying the EL-3 question pool and wish to take the General class (EL-3) exam have only a few opportunities left, because the EL-3 question pool changes as of July 1, 2004. MARC's last exam date using exams based on the old question pool will be Saturday, May 29, 2004.

73 John (KF9KL)

VEC TESTING

- Sat. Apr. 24, 2004 9:30 AM @ AES
- Sat. May 29, 2004 9:30 AM @ AES

AES = Amateur Electronic Supply

5710 W. Good Hope Rd. Milwaukee, WI

Vol.12 No. 04 - April, 2004 HAMATEUR OF THE

The **next Meeting** of **M.R.A.C.** will be Thursday - April 29, 2004 at **7:00 PM** at:

Redemption Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall 4057 N. Mayfair Rd. (Use the South entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please don't call the church.

The program for the April 29th MRAC general meeting will be Wire Antennas by Don Michalski W9IXG

WI ARRL section manager



Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695 P.O. Box 070695 Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

